

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 01449 130643 Z

12

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IGA-02 EA-04 EB-05 INR-09 /080 W

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R 130640 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0527

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1449

AIDAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: FEOF AGREEMENT

REF: CANBERRA 1424; VIENTIANE 1804

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR HAS HAD SEVERAL FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH STURKEY, AID POLICY BRANCH, AND LOVEDAY, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGARDING NEED FOR SIGNATURE OF FEOF AGREEMENT NOT LATER THAN MARCH 19.

2. LOVEDAY AND STURKEY HAVE NOW INFORMED EMBASSY:

(A) TREASURY AND DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON CONTRIBUTION;

(B) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, MARCH 15 AND DFA HAS RESERVED TIME FOR DISCUSSION OF FEOF;

(C) DFA IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT APPROVAL WILL BE OBTAINED AT THURSDAY'S MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. ONLY PROBLEM IS WHETHER DFA WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE AND CIRCULATE PAPER WORK IN TIME FOR MEETING. EVERY EFFORT BEING MADE.

3. LOVEDAY ASSURED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT GOA RECOGNIZES DELICACY OF SITUATION REGARDING FEOF AGREEMENTS AND IS MUCH ANXIOUS THAT GOA DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE CONTINUATION OF FEOF AGREEMENTS.

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RICE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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